

CHRONIC WASTING DISEASE UPDATE

APRIL 15, 2002

The Wisconsin legislature is working with Wisconsin DNR and Wisconsin Department of Animal Health in an effort to ban the feeding and baiting of cervids in that state. The legislature is also working on increasing the budget of the DNR to assist in fighting CWD.

Approximately 90% of the captive elk breeders in the Colorado endemic area have agreed to a buy out program that will result in an additional 1,000 elk in that area being depopulated. The producers have agreed not to bring in any other cervids to their facilities.

Previous depopulations in Colorado resulted in approximately 1,561 elk being depopulated and 32 tested positive for CWD at three different facilities. The McConnell facilities at Stoneham had the highest positive results with 29 animals testing positive.

The Wildlife Management Institute, the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and The Wildlife Society are working on an action alert to send to all state wildlife agencies reference the potential for CWD to spread and calling for all states to institute monitoring of cervid herds for CWD.

The Canadian Cervid Council has called an emergency meeting of all interested parties in Banff, Alberta, Canada for Monday, April 15 to address CWD issues in North American. Due to the short time frame of notification of this meeting, most states in the United States will not have representation at this meeting.

The Governor of Colorado has sent letters to eight western state governors calling for a regional task force to address CWD issues. This could become an expansion of the regional task force formed by Nebraska two years ago and received sponsorship by the Western Governors Association.

Although they have not found CWD in their state yet, Minnesota officials are working on a ban on feeding and baiting and a moratorium on wild and captive cervid imports.

Colorado Division of Wildlife employees are continuing the depopulation of wild cervids around the Motherwell Ranch in Routt County, Colorado in an attempt to control and/or eradicate CWD on the west slope of Colorado. To date, they have killed 311 deer within a 5 mile radius of the ranch with test results pending.

The total count of wild deer testing positive for CWD in Nebraska is now up to 14, 1 in Cheyenne County, 1 in Scotts Bluff County, 3 in Kimball County and 9 in Sioux County. Samples have been collected along the Sioux County/Wyoming border and we are waiting on results.

The state of New York has banned the import of all cervids into that state.